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haven't had a chance to read this, but what is the situation now? Do these children have to have these immunizations?

SENATOR MARESH: In some schools they do. In fact, some school boards have made rules that a child will not be admitted to a school unless they do have these shots, and, as far as the state law, there is no law that says they shall be immunized. This bill says they shall be unless a parent or guardian does not wish to have their children immunized. So, there is still an opening there that if they wish not to have them vaccinated, they could.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Why should we want not to have them immunized from diptheria, etc., some of these bad diseases. Why shouldn't everybody want to have their children immunized from these things.

SENATOR MARESH: That's the purpose of the bill, Senator Whitney, so the school board would require this before the child was admitted to school.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Well, the purpose of the bill is to take the power away from the school board to insist upon immunization. Is that it?

SENATOR MARESH: That is to make it state wide, so we'd have a good coverage over the whole state. At the present time, probably, you did not hear that some counties do not have these programs requiring immunization, such as, Buffalo county has only a 37.8% record on rubella immunization which is a very serious problem. When a mother...pregnant mother...has this disease, rubella, the child...the chances are quite probable that there would be a retarded child born, and this is why I have this bill because instead of allocating funds to provide education and that for the retarded children, I think we should do something about preventing retardation in the state of Nebraska, and this is one means to bring this about.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Excepting that if the parents don't like it, why then, they are not forced to have their children immunized.

SENATOR MARESH: That's right. There are certain...like the Christian Science people, they do not believe in immunization. A man appeared before the Committee and he was supporting the bill because we had this provision in there allowing them not to have the shot.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Was this considered quite seriously by the Committee and didn't they feel that these requirements should be made in order to protect the children of the state of Nebraska.

SENATOR MARESH: You mean to take away this right for parents to have a written statement. Is that what you...

SENATOR WHITNEY: Yes.

SENATOR MARESH: Well, I believe it's like a lot of different cases where you cannot tell these people that they shall do this because they have this right to object to medical treatment if their religion says they do not believe in this.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Thank you.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, as a member of the Committee that heard the bill, the two things that we pointed out is many local school districts now have an absolute requirement of children being vaccinated for a particular diseases, and the problem we faced and the reason for the amendment was the fact that certainly this is a health function and a state